



# NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 17, 2014

Contact: Kyle Sullivan, BLM, 719-269-8553

Barb Timock, USFS, 719-553-1415

## **Interagency Fall Prescribed Burn Program About to Begin in Southern Colorado**

**CANON CITY, Colo.** – Fire crews from the Bureau of Land Management Royal Gorge Field Office and the U.S. Forest Service Pike and San Isabel National Forests will join forces as they carry out their prescribed burning program this fall in southern Colorado. Planned ignitions will begin when weather and fuel conditions become optimal for achieving management objectives while keeping smoke impacts to a minimum in surrounding communities. Weather and fuel conditions will be closely monitored and the prescribed burning program will continue through the fall season as long as conditions allow.

Prescribed fire combined with mechanical and/or hand thinning treatments are effective land management tools used to reduce the accumulation of hazardous fuels and old and dense vegetation. Minimizing hazardous fuels reduces fire intensity and the risk of catastrophic wildland fires, which in turn minimizes the risk to firefighter and public safety. It also improves wildlife habitat, protects and promotes healthy watersheds and maintains healthier ecosystems.

Each prescribed burn has a detailed prescribed fire plan developed in advance, along with appropriate smoke permits obtained from state agencies.

Areas slated for treatment are:

- **Black Mountain:** 2100 acres on the San Isabel National Forest. Fuels are primarily ponderosa pine, grasses, and pinion and juniper fuels in Huerfano County. The project area is located six miles north of Gardner, Colorado.
- **Deerhaven:** 200 acres on BLM lands in ponderosa pine, oak brush, and grasses in Fremont County. This project area is located approximately 20 miles northwest of Canon City.
- **Trail Gulch:** 350 acres on BLM lands in ponderosa pine, oak brush, grasses, and mechanically treated fuels in Fremont Counties. This project area is located approximately 20 miles north of Canon City, Colorado.

Contacts: Dennis Page, Fuels Management Specialist, USFS 719-269-8584  
Glenda Torres, Fuels Program Lead – BLM 719-269-8582

###